

Unfortunately, our colleagues at the time did not follow our bipartisan recommendation on this important issue, and the House did go ahead and appropriate an additional \$600 million for that failed program. Now that we know only a handful are showing up for duty, it is not too late to stop this additional \$600 million from going forward for this failed program.

I am calling for the immediate removal of that funding. After all, we did pass my amendment prohibiting Congress from funding so-called rebels where there was clear proof that the money was being misspent. Mr. Speaker, the proof could not be more clear in this case.

This isn't about agreement or disagreement with our involvement in these Middle East conflicts. This is about the tragic, foolish, senseless, wasteful squandering of \$1.1 billion of hard-earned American taxpayers' dollars.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. CLAWSON and I both worked as businessmen for decades before coming to the Congress. Anyone who knows anything about business can tell you this: No private sector company ever succeeded by spending huge amounts of money on employees who never showed up for work or, worse yet, turned their allegiances to an opposition or a competitive company. That is no way to run a business, that is no way to govern, and it is certainly no way to win a war.

I plead with my colleagues to come to their bipartisan senses, join Mr. CLAWSON and me, and help us put an end to this tragic and wasteful spending of hard-earned American taxpayer dollars. The American taxpayers are counting on us. Let's not disappoint them.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Kevin Myers, 12Stone Church, Lawrenceville, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

God, You invite us to come to You as our Heavenly Father. And we know that if You kept a record of our wrongs, none of us would stand a chance. But with You there is forgiveness, so we are eternally grateful.

And beyond Your gift of forgiveness, we need Your wisdom under pressure.

Leadership pressure strains our marriage and family. Would You give us grace to love our spouse, wisdom to make time for family, and keep no record of wrongs. The stress of political leadership can tempt us to sweep aside our convictions. Give us wisdom and grace to lead with courage.

The problems in our Nation and pressing decisions can divide us beyond reason. Would You give us discernment beyond ourselves for the sake of our country. May we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You, our God.

In Jesus name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOLLY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR KEVIN MYERS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I tell my colleagues we had the great honor of the opening prayer today by Kevin Myers, who is one of my constituents in the great State of Georgia.

I don't want to tell you about everything he has done. I want to tell you a little bit, though, about who he is because he represents those folks that I have the honor of serving.

Pastor Kevin Myers and his new bride sold everything they owned and moved down to Georgia to plant their first church. God called him to do that. He is obedient.

Faced with trying to build that church from scratch, it was in an old movie theater just outside of where I call home. Sixty-nine people showed up on that very first day. That movie theater has now come and gone in our great State of Georgia, but the church remains. But through those dark times, he was faithful.

There are now 17,000 men and women who call that church their faith home, 12Stone Church. And every single one of those godly families loves on our community because of the love and faithfulness that Kevin inspires.

We are all honored to serve the men and women that elect us to this office.

I want you to know that I am honored to serve the godly folks of 12Stone Church and all of Gwinnett and Forsyth Counties.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. Foxx). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

U.S. ARMY MAJOR GENERAL BRYAN KELLY

(Mr. JOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who has dedicated 26 years of his life to ensuring the health of our U.S. Army reservists, a man who has devoted his life to helping others, U.S. Army Major General Bryan Kelly, who retired as commanding general of the Army Reserve Medical Command in Pinellas Park, Florida, on September 26.

General Kelly's military career began when he received a direct commission into the U.S. Army Reserves after graduating magna cum laude from Boston College, where he earned a Master of Arts and a doctorate in psychology.

During his service to our country, General Kelly has served in the 883 Medical Company and the 804. He has been deployed to Iraq, where he served as the commander of the 399 Combat Support Hospital. And since 2012, General Kelly has served as the commander of the Army Reserve Medical Command.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Major General Bryan Kelly for his 26 years of service and for the positive impact he has had, both on his community and the many men and women who serve in our military today.

I also rise to recognize and thank his wife of 35 years, Denise, and his two daughters, Kristina and Michelle, for their support during his service.

VA CHILDCARE PILOT PROGRAM

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, a Department of Veterans Affairs survey found that over 10 percent of our veterans had to cancel VA medical appointments due to lack of child care.

Today, the House will consider H.R. 3596, which will extend the VA childcare pilot program that is scheduled to expire this year.

This initiative has been a tremendous success in western New York. Last year, more than 1,300 children visited Kids Korner at the Buffalo VA Medical Center, helping hundreds of veterans keep their appointments. The

program has been especially useful in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, which requires regular counseling and recurring follow-up appointments.

While I am grateful that Kids Korner will be extended for another year, Congress should do more. I urge my colleagues to support legislation introduced by Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY to make the program permanent and allow VA hospitals across the country to establish similar programs for veterans that they serve. Making child care available to patients who need it is a cost-effective way to improve health outcomes for veterans to whom we owe so much.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, it is no secret that Iran has been one of the leading sponsors of terrorism in the world for decades and that I am strongly opposed to the Iran nuclear deal.

Hundreds of Americans have been killed by terrorist attacks that were sponsored or financed by Iran. U.S. courts have ruled against Iran in more than 80 cases, holding Iran responsible for nearly \$45 billion in damages.

The first thing, before any agreement would ever happen, is that we should make sure that Iran—out of that \$150 billion of possible sanctions relief, we should demand that American families who lost a loved one at the hands of Iranian terrorism receive the damages they are owed. We cannot fail these American families. Yet Obama's administration is prepared to unfreeze up to \$150 billion of these assets that will help finance Iran's continued terror attacks.

I am proud to cosponsor the legislation by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEHAN), H.R. 3457, the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act, which keeps Iran's sanctions in place until Iran has at least paid the damages that it owes American families.

Madam Speaker, this is the very least we can do on a bad deal.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, the right to choice, the right for a woman to have control of her own body is guaranteed by the Constitution and has been for 40 years. Defunding Planned Parenthood will not change that. Instead, defunding Planned Parenthood would lead to a decrease in access to contraception and an increase in unplanned pregnancies.

With 40 percent of unplanned pregnancies ending in abortion, defunding

Planned Parenthood would inevitably result in more abortions, not fewer. If you really want to reduce the number of abortions, you should be lobbying to increase funding for Planned Parenthood and other organizations that provide safe and effective birth control.

So let's fund Planned Parenthood, keep our government open, and move on to more pressing issues for the American people.

NATIONAL RICE MONTH

(Mr. ABRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with America's rice farmers and families in celebrating the month of September as National Rice Month. It has been 25 years since September was first dedicated as National Rice Month.

So on this silver anniversary, I want to pay a special tribute to the hardworking men and women who produce rice on their family farms. I would also like to recognize all those who mill and market rice, all the suppliers and buyers and, of course, all of the consumers who make rice an essential part of their diet.

Rice farming in America actually predates this Nation's independence, beginning almost 300 years ago. Today, America's rice industry creates 125,000 good-paying jobs and contributes an estimated \$34 billion to our Nation's economy.

Nine million tons of rice are grown each year by family farmers on more than 2.7 million acres of land, predominantly in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, California, and Texas. While these six States produce the lion's share of rice in America, there is also rice production in other States, like Illinois and Tennessee. In fact, the rice industry reaches every State in the Nation, especially those States with cereal makers, breweries, and other foodmakers that use rice as a key ingredient.

I ask my colleagues to support me in recognizing September as National Rice Month.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here because I stand with the majority of Americans who support Planned Parenthood and the lifesaving preventative healthcare services that they provide each year to millions of women, to men, to families all across this country. In fact, a new poll shows that nearly 7 in 10 Americans, 69 percent, oppose shutting down the Federal Government as a means of defunding Planned Parenthood. Shutting down the government, we know, puts this American economy at risk, and it is no way to govern.

But there is only 1 legislative day left before another GOP-engineered shutdown. Republicans are so focused on defunding Planned Parenthood, in fact, they are so focused on fighting one another, that they can't fight for hardworking Americans who are simply looking for their government to address the problems and concerns and the priorities that the American people sent us here to address.

Americans overwhelmingly want both parties to work together, to find solutions to the big problems we face in this country. I call on this Congress to set aside these petty fights and get to the work that the American people sent us here to do.

CLEAN NUCLEAR ENERGY

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, back home in Georgia's 12th Congressional District, I have had the opportunity to visit Southern Company's Plant Vogtle in Waynesboro many times. I am extremely excited to see the progress of construction of Vogtle reactors 3 and 4, the Nation's first new nuclear reactors in 30 years. I look forward to the clean energy and job opportunities they will provide for our State and the entire Southeast.

My district is proud to be the home of every nuclear reactor in the State, including two at Plant Vogtle, two at Plant Hatch in Appling County, and two in construction at Plant Vogtle.

Nuclear energy plays an important role in Georgia's energy portfolio and accounts for nearly a third of all power generated. Nuclear energy facilities across Georgia employ more than 4,000 highly skilled employees and play a vital role in our State and local economy.

Nuclear energy produces 91 percent of Georgia's emission-free electricity and is the only clean air source that can produce large amounts of electricity around the clock.

As the proud grandfather of Elsie Louise Allen, born at 10:45 a.m. this morning, I support clean nuclear energy and support the great work being done at Plant Vogtle and Plant Hatch on behalf of our children and grandchildren and their future energy needs.

□ 1215

THE POPE'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to first thank Speaker BOEHNER for inviting Pope Francis to be the first Pope to ever address a joint session of Congress in his visit to the United States last week.

I know that I was not the only Member of Congress who was deeply moved